

**DESPERATE
AND
DANGEROUS
DESIGNE DISCOVERED
CONCERNING
The FEN-COUNTRIES;**

BY

**A faithfull friend, who as soone as it
came to his knowledge, hath taken some pains,
not only to discover, but to prevent the
same; By order of the Committee for the**

FENNS.

**Published for the Common-good,
and in all humility presented to the High
Court of PARLIAMENT.**

**And in particular to some Noble Personages especially
interrested and concerned therein.**

LONDON,

**Printed by G.B. and R. VV. and are to be sold by
Robert Constable at his Shop in West-
minster-Hall. 1642.**

DESPERATE

DANGEROUS

DESIGNED TO COVER

RED CONCRETING

The NEW-COMMITTEE

A faithful friend, who as soon as it

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FENNIS

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LONDON
Printed by J. G. and A. W. and sold by J. G.
at the Coffee House in St. James's
Street-Hall, no 4.

TO THE
**HIGH COVRT
OF PARLIAMENT.**

Most great and Honourable Senate.

I shall not need to tell you what damages
hath happened to the Common-wealth
by some Projectors of late, who have
pretended as faire to his Majesty, as
Sir Cornelius Vraniden hath done
in this his Designe; Your wisdomes have found
them out, and sent them packing: And if it shall
appeare by what is briefly set forth in these following
lines, that this Designe is as dangerous, and may
prove as hurtfull to the subjects as any of the for-
mer; I doubt not but your Wisdomes and Justice,
will be so far from giving power by Law, for the
pursuance of such a Designe, that you will prevent
the hurt and danger (being discovered) that may
come thereby: Let not my meannesse or unworthi-
nesse cause what I have here done to be slighted;
Once a poore Israelitish maide made knowne to a
great Assyrian Lord, how he might be cured of his
Leprosie, which was neither slighted by him, nor
by that great King, but set them both on worke, and

much good came thereby: And should I now have
beene silent, being timely invited, (as one amongst
others whom it may concerne) both to make excepti-
ons against it, and to offer any other designe (besides
my own particular ingagement calling me thereto by
that losse I have already, and shall hereafter sustaine)
I should have beene conscious to my selfe, (not only of
being no great friend to my country, but also of fur-
thering thus his design than otherwise, by not putting
in execution what I by practise and experience
knew might any way conduce to the preventing
of so great, so eminent danger; threatening not
onely one, or two, or a few private persons in par-
ticular, but whole townes, nay whole countries too
in generall: I shall heare say no more, but daily
pray, that God will assist you, and give you happy
successe in all your great undertakings.

EDMUND SCOTTEN.

TO
THE RIGHT
HONOURABLE
WILLIAM

EARLE OF BEDFORD,
and his Honourable friends

Adventurers in the great levell
of F E N E S.

Right Honourable

IF I should now be silent, I should not know how to frame myself an excuse: Having heretofore beene a servant to the Right Honourable, the Earle of Bedford, & his Honorable friends in the drayning: And well observing how one Mr. Hill who had then power put into his hands, did begin to go a wrong way to work upon Wisbeech River, which so soone as I perceived, I made it knowne, and al-

though some money was expended that way by him
before I could prevent it, yet I saved them a 1000.
pounds. And can I now be silent? when by speaking I
may not onely save 1000. but many thousands, in
preventing the pursuance of a desperate designe,
which the Honorable Committee for the Fens have
ordered to be printed, that whosoever it concerns
might make exceptions against it; silence in this
case might give the Parliament and your Lordships
just cause to approve thereof, which promise so faire,
and to which none could take exceptions, though in-
vited to it. I have therefore with all faithfulness,
briefly laid open the danger, which in all humility I
present unto your Lordships, that the danger being
discovered, which before lay hid under faire pro-
mises and pretences, may be avoided. And now whe-
ther these things may be proved acceptable
or no, I know not. Yet however, I have declared my
opinion, and left it extant, that future times may
witness that the danger was discovered. For my
owne part I am confident, that if this designe be pur-
sued, what I have now written, one day by costly ex-
perience will be found to be true.

Yours Honours to serve
to his utmost,

Edmund Scotten.

**Certaine exceptions against Sir
Cornelius Vermuden his designe,**
for the drayning of the Fens, with
Queries upon each passage :

As also divers arguments, drawne from the workes
by him already made, and such as are propounded
by him to be made, which shew the practicablenesse
of his designe, that it cannot make a perfect dray-
ning.

With some short rules in general, they may be
drayned and preserved from inundation.

ACcording to an Order the 25. of Fe-
bruary, I have made some excepti-
ons, against Sir Cornelius Vermuden
his designe, as I finde it in divers pas-
sages of his booke, with queries up-
on each passage, and from them, and some
workes already done by him, I have framed
some Arguments whereby it may evidently ap-
peare that although hee promitteth to draine the
Fennes, and seemes to take care that none
be wronged thereby, yet in pursuance of his
designe, he will not be able to performe the for-
mer,

mer, nor make good the later, and also have shewed how the greatest part of the Fennes may be made winter grounds, and Navigation preserved; and no man wronged nor indangered, and the charge not so great, but that the Fennes will abundantly requite the cost.

1. H. Pa. 2. li. 28. He sets downe 400000. Acres of Fenne Lands, which being made winter grounds, would be an unexpected benefit of six hundred thousand pounds *per annum*, and upwards, which is more by one halfe then ever they will, as the rates of Landes now goe.

Quer.

Whether this be not a bad beginning at first dash, to misinforme his Majestie, of purpose to worke his affections the more to the drayning, and that so as Sir *Cornelius* might have the better allowances.

2. Pa. 5. li. 29. He saith it is apparant that in processe of time, the Outfalls of *Wisbitch* and *Welland*, will utterly decay, and that for want of water, Pa. 5. li. 23. pa. 14. li. 6. and yet pa. 13. li. 30. he will take away part of *Glean*, and all *Welland*, to *Mortons Leame*, and so to *Wisbitch*, and yet have water enough to keepe open the Outfall of *Welland*, pa. 18. li. 11. And yet one reason why he turnes the water of *Welland* to *Wisbitch*, is because that thereby he will gaine and keepe open a good Outfall for *Neene*.

Quer.

Whether first these severall passages doe not contradict each other; secondly, if it be apparant, that the Outfall of *Welland* will decay because there is no more water put to it, how can that

that Outfall be maintained; when part of *Glean*,
and all *Welland* is taken from it.

Pa. 14. li. 25. He tels how he will maintaine it;
his words are, And by this meanes the old Chan-
nell of *Welland* will become very usefull to the
countrey, by the Sasse or Navigable Sluce to be
set at *Walden Hall*, for Navigation to water the
countrey in Summer time, and to scoure the
Outfall, and pa. 20. li. 6. and if need be, the foot-
ne to gather head by meanes of the Sluce and
Sasse, which are to be below it, on *Welland*, to
scoure the Outfall.

Whether that a Sluce placed 10. or 12. miles
from the Outfall to scoure it, be not a conceipt
so yaine and ridiculous, that it deserves no farther
answer.

Pa. 15. li. 9. He hath another helpe which is
the downefall of *Deeping* and *Thorney*; his
words are, If it were not to preserve Navigation
for *Spaulding*, it were litle amiss to bring all
the downefall of *Deeping* and *Thorney* through
Ellon, and so to *Wichitch* Outfall by a new chan-
nell, and this is another remedy.

The first, if he cannot make use of it, but hee
will want water to preserve Navigation for
Spaulding, how is it another remedy? Of whe-
ther will he turne the downefall of *Deeping* and
Thorney, through *Ellon*, and so to *Wichitch* Out-
fall by a new Channell, though he doe destroy
Navigation to *Spaulding*.

The second, whether the downefall usually in
Summer time be not so little, that the very bot-

3.

Quor.

4.

Quor.

Quor.

some of the Dikes be dry, and will not then
Spaulding Outfall Sand quite up, and for winter
time (if the Fennes be drained) will not the
downefall be low in the Dikes, of *Deeping* Fens,
two foot, or at least one, under the superficies
of the Fennes; and Sir *Cornelius* saith, pa. 15. li.
3. *Deeping* Fennes are very low, and yet the
downefall must runne lower, hee will confesse,
then what force can this downefall have to
secure the Outfall, and preserve Navigation for
Spaulding, is not this if well considered, of as
strange a concept, as that a Navigable Sluce at
Waldron Hall should doe it.

Quæ.
2.

Thirdly it is apparant that the Outfalls of
Washet and *Welland* will decay by the increase
of Sands, as now they are, when they have so
much fresh water to keepe them open, that some-
times it cannot be contained between the bankes,
then how shall the water that must come through
the Sluce at *Waldron Hall*, and the downefall of
Deeping and *Thorney*, which is lower then it pre-
serve Navigation for *Spaulding*, or keepe open
the Outfall of *Welland*.

Sar.
2.

Pa. 13. li. 26. He saith *Welland* and the Shire
Drayne will be turned to be good servants, in
stead of ill masters.

Quæ.
2.

Whether by this way Sir *Cornelius* hath let
forth, it be not most certaine that *Welland* will
doe no service at all, no not so much in Summer
time as carry the smallest boate, nor any part of
the downefall.

6.

Pa. 23. li. 51. He saith the Fen waters for that
part

part of the country, must goe part to *Croftland*, and so by *Spaulding* to the Sea, and by *Murre* *Plash*, as need shall require. And if the fall can be gained at *Guyburne*, part may goe by *Wibitch*, otherwise *Welland* and *Murre* *Plash* must remaine the onely draines for the downefall; which are not sufficient to receive it.

Whether this (like many other passages in his booke) be not very uncertaine, observe his words (if the fall can be gained at *Guyburne*) but if not, *Welland* and *Murre* *Plash* must be the onely draines, which he saith are not sufficient to receive it; So that if the fall cannot be gained at *Guyburne*, this must remaine an imperfect worke; but then if the Outfall of *Welland* be quite fanded up, then he hath but *Murre* *Plash* alone, and if two be not sufficient, what will one of them doe?

Pa. 26. li. 8. He saith it may be objected, that the inhabitants of *Peterborough* have Navigation from their towne to *Linne* by the River *Neene*; as now it runneth, which will then be taken away, he answereth, that the workes being thus contrived, they shall not need to fetch and carry their commodities so farre, but goe the neirest way to *Wibitch*.

Whether this satisfactory seeming answer (to omit here the damage *Linne* may suffer thereby) doth give any satisfaction at all, if he meane they shall goe to *Wibitch* and so by the Sea to *Linne*, then whether these watermen, and their vessels be fit for a Sea voyage or no, if not, then what shall the inhabitants of *Peterborough* doe;

Lucr.

8

7.

Lucr.

untill the two rivers meeting above have ground
out the Channell, that *Wibitch* may be made
an Haven towne. A may not his bankes placed at
such a great distance be broken, or torne, and cut
as they were this last winter, and then how ma-
ny yeares may the inhabitants of *Poerborough*,
part of *Northampton*, *Leicester shire* and *Rutland*,
waite by a tedious expectation untill *Wibitch*
may serve their turne, as *Linne* now doth, what
shall they doe in the meane time?

8.

Pis. 29. li. 6. He saith *Omse* may not goe downe
the Fennes as now it doth, but the best way is to
turne the River at *Erith*, into, and the next unto
Bedford River, and to shut the passage of *Omse*,
as now it goeth by a crosse Banke through the
River to the firme land. and in so the three Ri-
vers of *Mildenhall*, *Brandon* and *Stoake*, must bee
made one River.

And to that end *Mildenhall* must bee brought
into *Brandon*, and both into *Stoake*, and all into
Omse, and in that manner, that the downefall of
the Levell may be brought through a draine, to
be made to a better fall then that of *Stoake* for
the downefall of *Graunt* to goe in.

Quer.

Whether when old *Omse* is stopped and *Mil-
denhall*, *Brandon*, and *Stoake*, bee turned another
way, and fall into *Omse* neere *Stow Bridge*, as is set
forth in the Mappe, at the end of his booke, whe-
ther then the Tides which now flow up in Sum-
mer time foure miles above *Ely*, will not then
flow up into old *Omse* also, as farre as his stop at
Erith, and into the other Rivers of *Mildenhall*
and

and *Brandon*, which then will be empty, and fill them with Sand, causing them in short time to be so much landed up, that they will not doe so much as carry away the downefall, having no quantitie of fresh water, to carry out their Sands againe.

Quar.

Second, whether when all *Ouse* is stopped at *Erith*, and must not come into old *Ouse* againe, untill it come to *Salter's Load*, and *Mildenhall*, *Brandon*, and *Stoake*, must not come into *Ouse*, untill a little above *Stow Bridge*, and all *Neene* turned to *Wishitch*, so that for above 30. miles space, there will be but *Gravel* onely, which in Summer time will scarce cover the bottom of the old *Ouse*, can there possibly be a foote of water in many places, will there be six inches of water upon *Ely Hards*, which are shallow and broad; and what a designe is this, to deprive *Cambridge*, *Linne*, *Wishitch*, *Spaulding*, *Ely* and *Peterborough*, of Navigation, and doth it not greatly behoove those great townes of Navigation, and countries about them, to seeke in time to prevent the prosecution of such a designer.

9.

Pa. 5. li. 23. Hee confesseth that the sands in Summer time now overcome the Ebbes somewhat in *Linne Haven*, yet hee saith they doe not lie long, for the first land waters or next spring tides carry them away.

Quar.

If the next spring Tides will doe it, how is it apparant that the Outfalls of *Wishitch* and *Wel-*
land will utterly decay by the encrease of the Sands, for want of fresh waters, Pa. 5. li. 29. and

how is that the Sands now in *Linne Haven* overcome the Ebbes in Summer time: doe not the Spring Tides keepe their constant course all Summer long?

10.

Lucy.

Pa. 5. li. 28. The first land waters or next spring tides carry out the Sands againe.

Whether it is not plaine and manifest by his owne confession above, that the Spring Tides will not carry out the Sands they bring in, though here hee would make his Reader beleeye they will, can any thinke hee would have so contradicted himselfe, if he had thought his designe should have beene printed, that whom it concernes might make exceptions to it, but if the Spring Tides faile, he saith the first Land waters will doe it, pa. 5. li. 28. but then is it not most plaine by his booke, and by the workes set forth in the Mappe at the end of the booke, that hee will take away those land waters, part of *Glean*, and all *Wvelland*, and from *Spaulding*, and *Neene* wholly from *Linne* and stop *Omse* and *Mildenhall*, and *Brauden* and *Stoake*, and turne them another way, and leave no land waters in these Rivers for many miles together but only *Grunt*, must it not then follow by his owne confession, that these Rivers will be sanded up, and so not Navigation onely destroyed, but the Rivers spoyled that they will not so much as carry away the downefall.

11.

Pa. 26. li. 4. He saith, and for instance the *Omse* from *Littleport* to *Linne* keeps his depth, by reason of the backe waters.

What

What backe waters doth he meane. If he meane Mildenhall and Brandon, and the Ouse above Littleport, which are backe waters from Lynne and Littleport, the fe he shewes you plainly he meanes to take away. And then if these backe waters were the cause, as here he confesseth, that Ouse keeps his depth now betwene Littleport and Lonne, then must it needs follow, when these are taken away, the Ouse will loose his depth, and Sand up, what neede we any other witness in this, he himselfe hath confessed it, both here and elsewhere, and li. 29. the mischance that will follow upon it.

Pa. 7. li. 1. he adviseth not to goe the ordinary way of drayning to avoyd inconveniences of great and vast expences, many difficulties of inundations, which otherwise would depend thereon, and pa. 9. figure 1. for these reasons.

First, that the workes may be made at a farre lesse charge.

Secondly, that they will stand with more safety and no hazard of inundation, and so become habitable.

Thirdly, not subject to halfe that reparation.

Fourthly, and the land of a farre better value, then the other way.

If the contrary of all these be made to appeare most evident, then whether for all these faire pretences, this be not the true cause he will not goe the ordinary way.

First, because he would seeme to have more skill in drayning then others.

Secondly,

Quer.

12.

Quer.

Secondly, and so indeare his service that hee might have more money yearly for his pay.

13.

Pa. 10. figure 3. He saith, that bankes so much as may be are to be laid out from the moorish grounds, and pa. 12. li. 13. bankes made of moorish ground, chargeable and dangerous.

Quer.

Then why doth he himselfe swerve so much from his owne rules, for may not the waters of *Glean* and *Weland* be sent to the Sea betwixt bankes made of Clay and other indurable earth, with such force and strength, that will cause and keepe open a good Outfall with helpe of a Sluce placed below *Spaulding*? And yet hee adviseth to turne *Stom* brooke, part of *Glean*, and all *Weland* into *Neene*, and all these waters in time of greatest floods must be sent betwixt two Bankes made of light Moore and Hallokes, betwixt *Eldernell* and *Gayburne*, is not this a very dangerous way even by his owne confession here?

14.

Pa. 10. figure 4. Hee saith, Rivers are to be carried on the highest grounds where possibly they may be, yet he will have *Glean* and *Weland*, which may possibly goe to *Spaulding* Outfall, and make it very good, being as he saith the higher grounds, to goe to *Neene*, and so that way to the Sea, which he confesseth to be lower, pa. 17. li. 8. where it cannot possibly goe, as after will appeare.

Quer.

Whether in this also hee doth not contradict himselfe.

Pa. 7. li. 24. He saith the Townes of *Peterborough*, *Erith* and many others, standing upon the upper

upper ends of the Rivers, and but low, would be thereby sometimes drowned, unlesse great forelands, and receptracles be.

Whether for all this seeming care for them they will not be drowned more then they had wont, the waters being restrained of their former libertie by new bankes, and besides the losse and dammages they may sustaine by drowning their houses, and *Tilth* fields, by restrayning the water and houlding it up; It may prove very hurtfull to their Closings and Meddowes in Summer times, when any flood shall come floating, and spoyling their Grasse, more then formerly, and then doth it not much concerne the six Counties to cry downe such a designe as this?

Pa. 29. li. 14. (He saith) and to the end the water of *Ouse* should not anoy the Country any further, the said *Bedford* River is to be imbanked on each side thereof to keepe *Ouse* within certaine bounds, the bankes thereof must bee a great distance the one from the other, so that the water in time of extremitie may goe in a large roome to keepe it from rising too high, and the more because there is a great distance of about 25. miles from *Erith*, before it comes to the perfect fall.

Whether here he ought not to have set downe how farre distance the bankes are to be made the one from the other, whether a quarter, or halfe a mile, or a whole one, or two, or three, or more, or lesse. And then how high the water will rise betweene his bankes, that the inhabitants of

Quer.

16.

Quer.

Maine and Welnigh, might know how deepe they shall be drowned in their houses, whether foure or five or six or seaven foote deepe, And their new repaired Chappell at *Welnigh*, which had lately a gathering for, through many Counties, whether they must not remove their Ministers reading Place, and their owne as high or higher then their Pulpit is now; And that likewise *Merpall* men on the other side, might have knowne how high they should be drowned in their Chappell, and houses, that they might have time to remove them higher upon the hill side.

17.

Pa. 3. li. 3. p. 10. li. 1. He saith that the great level of Fens is broad and of great extent, and flat with little or no descent of its owne, and growne full of Hallockes, Sedge, and Reeds, and the waters goe slowly away from the Lands, and out of the Rivers they come swift into, and upon it, out of the upland Countries; And pa. 10. figure 2. the level is of great extent, 20. miles at least from the upper ends to the fall. And yet he saith because he sets his bankes at 16 great a distance the waters will not rise high against them, pa. 23. li. 3. pa. 29. li. 20.

Quer.

Whether here is not guile or ignorance, guile in that he saith the waters will not rise high, when it is most certaine they will, ignorance if he thinks as he saith, for they will rise 6. or 7. foot high betwene his bankes, at least, when the floods are foure or five foote over the superficies of the Medowes, there needs no other proofe but his owne confession in these words that the level

vell

vell is flat with little or no descent of its owne, and the waters goe slowly away, and come swift into and upon the Fens from the upland Countries, now is it not most evident that where waters have a great fall that they cannot goe backe againe, and a wide and swift passage into a levell betweene bankes, and a straite and narrow passage from that flat to the Sea: So that the water cannot by reason of such narrow passage and the the tides, goe above halfe so fast out of the Fennes to the Sea, as it comes into them: must it not needs follow in every mans judgement that at such times, though his banks be 10. foote high, such floods will rise within two foote of the top, but if this be not plaine enough, By an example I am able to make it appeare to him that hath the least insight into such things.

Pa. 6. li. 13 He saith the countries of *Marshland*, *Wisblitch* and *Holland* are fenced by bankes from the waters of the Fens, and sometimes they have beene overflowed by the said waters and have often beene in great danger, and they are at continuall charge for the maintenance of the said Bankes: And yet he cannot deny but these bankes are made of Clay and other indurable Earth, and the waters had libertie to spread over all the great levell of Fens and arole not at any time above three foote in height over the levell.

Whether the consideration of this truth ought not to have kept him from attempting such a designe as this? for might hee not from hence have drawne this conclusion, and that truly,

18.

Quer.

if banks made of good earth have bin sometimes broken and the Lands overflowne to unspeakeable losse. And are often in great danger, and they are at a continuall charge to maintaine them, and then the water but low, having scope to disperse over all the great levell; what a vaine designe is mine that I should perswade to turne three Rivers into one to be carryed to the Sea betweene Bankes made of light Moore and Hassocks which will never be able to hold when six or seven foot of water shall rise in heighth betwixt them. But if the windes blow, (as seldome they doe not when the waters are at highest) will be sure to be broken and torne to peeces. And then what will become of me, and my designe, wherein I have pretended to his Majestie, and other great Lords, a farre lesse charge, and more safetie, and no hazzard of inundation, and better for habitation, and make the lands be of a better value, when they shall finde by costly experience the contrary of all these to be true.

19.

Pa. 8. li. 19. He saith the Levell would become surrounded and so without perfection from within, and by the waters without, the bankes will lie in continuall danger of inundation for want of a good fall in the winter, and by a Winde-catch breake and undoe all againe.

Quer.

Whether the Serious consideration of this also ought not to have staied him in presenting this designe and have caused his thoughts to have reasoned thus, If when the Levell is but surrounded a little wanting perfection from within, and
tinuall

by the waters without the bankes, will be in continuall danger of inundation, and by a wind catch, breake and teare all the bankes to peeces, and so undoe all againe: What will become of my bankes in time of such Wind-catches, when the waters will rise 6. or 7. foot betweene them how will they be torne and broken, and all undone againe: And then what may the charge be to make them up the next Summer? And they will be broken and torne and undone againe the next winter: And so every Summer, as long as money will last they may be made up, and every winter be undone againe, and then where is farre lesser charge, and where is safety from inundation, and where will they become habitable, and of what value will these lands be of? And then lastly how shall I looke for any favour from his Majestie, and those Lords whom I have deceived they trusted to my skill and honesty, and I shall proove no better then some cheater. or Mountebanke to them, sure I will never doe this, though for the present it might gaine mee a thousand pounds a yeare.

20.

Pa. 12. li. 7. And in case all the Rivers should be inned and fenced with bankes to free the lands, and that great distances should be left betweene banke, and banke, yet still it must bee confessed that a multitude of bankes in this le- vell must be made through Moorish grounds, in length about 70000. foulds which would be very chargeable and dangerous, And (if all be considered), impossible that way to make a sure worke.

Quer.

Whether here hee doth not plainly confesse bankes made to fence lands with great distances betweene them, made through Moorish grounds are dangerous, and (if all be considered) impossible that way to make a sure worke, doth not this confession then confute, or at leastwise contradict what he said before, pa. 9. figure 2. that they will stand with more safetie and no hazzard of inundation, for though he may seeme to lessen the charge by avoyding multiplicitie of Bankes, yet here can be no colour to lessen the danger, but make it more unavoydable, because he will turne two or three Rivers into one, which will charge his Moorish Bankes farre more then one single River. And by what might be said concerning the charge of his bankes, and his cuts through hard and stony grounds, and the maintenance, it would plainly appeare that if his designe were followed it would prove intollerable for charge.

21.

Pa. 25. li. 3. He saith it is needfull to make the opening of *Wibitch* River in a larger manner then now it is, but forbeares to set downe how farre in length he will enlarge it, how broad and deepe he will make it, and the charge with the purchase of those lands he must cut, worth 20. shillings an Acre *per annum*, that the charge might appeare, and that others might discern whether that Outfall will conveigh three Rivers to the Sea, in time of greatest floods before the Bankes above be come and broken to peeces.

Quer.

Whether in stead of imitating nature, ph. 13. W

li. 1. doth he not in this and divers other darke passages rather imitate the popish Clergy, who keepe men as ignorant as they can, that they may the more easily deceive them, and leade them whether they list.

Pa. 25. l. 25. It shall not be widened any more, the two Rivers meeting, will grinde the channell through the Marsh, and make *Wishitch* an Haven towne like that of *Linne*, though not in such measure of widenesse.

If his two Rivers shall lie 7. or 8. foot high betweene his Bankes made of light Moore, and Hassockes, untill it have grinded the Channell 4. or 5. miles through the Marsh, how often will those bankes be broken and torne to peeces before the Channell bee ground out, and when they are torne and broken to peeces, will not both the Fennes be drowned, and the water lost that should doe the businesse?

Pa. 24. he tels his Majestie that he would make a Banke from *Stand Ground* to the fields of *Witleseii*, and from *Eldernell* to *Guyburne* on that side.

But as it is verily beleeyed by many, that hee might be revenged on Master *Burrell* who would not stoope to him, he hath caused a banke to bee made on the same side through his severall, and others, in length two miles nearer *Wishitch*, by which meanes he hath not onely wronged Mr. *Burrell* and others many hundred pounds for the present, and cut up *London Road*, to the pittifull toiling of Travellers and deprived others of his

Majesties

22.

Quer.

23.

Majesties Subjects wholly of their high way, but hath endangered the utter ruining of Master *Burrell* and others, and the drowning of whole townes and Churches, not caring, though hee spent his Majestie many thousand pounds in vaine, to teach Master *Burrell* and others hereafter not to oppose him.

Quer.

Whether this be not *Haman*-like, because *Mordecai* would not stoope to him, he was not contented to be revenged on *Mordecai* alone, but upon all the Jewes, though he in no wise was able to recompence the Kings dammages by his wicked act.

AND now having spent some time in reading and taking some Notes out of his booke, and finding how one part of it crosseth and contradicts another; And if some part of it be true, the other must needs be false, and so needs no other prooffe to confute it, but his owne words I might rest here, but because this way of keeping water aloft betweene bankes set at a great distance is of such dangerous consequence not onely to such as shall be the adventurers, but to the inhabitants adjoyning neare to such bankes, and having such plentifull matter to make it evident to all men, to be a most deceitfull way, and the money so expended to be utterly lost, altogether failing of the end it shall be disbursed for, namely the drayning of the Fens, I shall adde to what I have already observed in his booke 3. or 4. Arguments

arguments more, first from the costly experience of others, the next from his owne workes already done, and lastly from his proceedings and propositions set forth in this designe.

It is most apparant by what hath beene already said, that when the land floods shall descend from *Northampton, Bedford*, or other upland countries: and shall arise in height 4. or 5. foote over the Superfices of the Medowes, they will arise 6. or 7. foote high betweene his Bankes, though placed at a great distance betweene them; and when the waters are thus aloft neare the top of the bankes the winds will have such power to raise violent waves against them, that will breake and teare them to peeces, they being made of light and spongie stufte. And that they will doe so, all indifferent men that have experience of the Fennes will witness with me.

It is well knowne there was a banke made betweene *Upwell* and *Welnigh*, about foure miles in length, made to preserve Fens called the *Londoners Fennes*, which Banke by its often tearing, breaking and blowing up after great summes of money expended, it wearied out the undertakers; And yet the waters arose not at any time above three foote in height in the *Levell* against that Banke; they having libertie to spread themselves over the great *Levell* of the Fennes, from whence I draw this conclusion.

That if a Banke made in the same Fens which cost many thousand pounds, and but foure miles in length could not bee made to hold, but was

come in peeces, broken and blowne up, and but
3. foote of water against it, whereby those under-
takers (though men of great estates) were forced
to leave them and loose all their labour and cost.

Then the Bankes made by Sir *Cornelius* being
of no better stuffe, when 6. or 7. foote of waters
shall with violent waves beate against them, can-
not possibly hold, but will be torne in peeces, bro-
ken and blowne up.

But what neede I instance in Bankes of like na-
ture, for this very Banke which Sir *Cornelius* hath
already made was so neare breaking and blow-
ing up this yeare that it hath cost much money
in bringing Earth, Brush, Faggors, and Fodder,
sheaves, and many hundred of Fir deales cut to
preserve it. And yet was dangerously torne, in
so much, that if one living neare unto it, had not
espied it one Lords day at night, little before his
going to bed, and called up neighbours out of
their beds, and road to *Wisbitch* for more helpe:
in their judgements in one two houres it had been
broken, and had not onely drowned *Waldersfeir*,
but *Wisbitch* and *Elme*.

From whence I frame this argument, that
those Bankes that will not hold one yeare but re-
quire good cost to preserve them; And yet that
cost would not preserve them from tearing, nor
secure them from breaking, when the waters had
libertie to spread, and so could not rise high,
whereby the windes might have power to raise
violent waves against them, cannot possibly hold
when the waters shall be pent up betweene two

bankes, and so lie high against them. But the new Banke Sir *Cornelius* hath caused to be made in *Waldersfel*, hath had great cost bestowed upon it by bringing, Earth, Fodder, Sheaves, Brush, Faggots, and cutting many hundred of Deales to preserve it, and yet was fearefully torne, and in great danger to breake untill it was cut in a convenient place, or two, above, notwithstanding the waters had scope to spread themselves over 30. thousand Acres, whereby they could rise to nothing neare that height they will, when restrained of that liberty.

Therefore the bankes made and propounded to be made by Sir *Cornelius Vermuden* cannot possibly hold long, nor secure the Lands adjoyning.

But that banks did not breake nor blow up, and Sir *Cornelius* is taken for a man of judgement and experience; sure he would never have been so bold as to perswade his Majesty and other great Lords, and now the Parliament to disburse such great summes of money, if he did not well know his workes would hold, and cause a perfect draining.

The cause that banke did not breake hath been shewed sufficiently already: But for further answer hereto, I shall frame two or three arguments more; And first, from his Bankes and Sluce, that were not only torne and in great danger, but broken and blowne up, which he was intrusted to make on the Salt Marshes; Thus,

That he that shall be entrusted to make bankes for preserving of Marshes intended to be plowed

and sowne, which Marshes, if kept dry, the first Crop might have been worth 30*li*. an Acre: if he shall make such bankes as shall be corne and broken, and thereby those Marshes drowned, may well be suspected to want judgement or care fit for such a trust.

But thus it hath fared with those Bankes Sir *Cornelius* hath been intrusted by his Majesty to make on the Marshes aforesaid, intended to be plowed and sowne.

Therefore his judgement or care may be justly suspected in matters of so great concernment.

Another argument of this kinde if needed, might be framed from his Share he caused to be placed below the Shire drain, which hath cost his Majesty some 1000*li*. all which is utterly lost.

But in further answer to this objection, one argument now may be framed from divers passages in his book concerning his way of drayning. Thus,

That he that shall perswade his Majesty and other great Lords to turne two or three Rivers into one, stopping them of their ancient courses, and carrying them another way to the Sea; telling his Majesty that by this meanes the Fennes will be drayned at a far lesse charge and made the better for habitation, & safer for inundation; And all this, that his Majesty might take him for a skilfull man for devising such a thrifty way, & so allow him the greater wages although by this designe he deprive *Cambridge, Ely, Linn, Peterborough, Wisbitch, Spaulding*, and almost all other

Townes

Townes in, and all the Countries about the Fens (except some part of *Huntington* Shire) of their Navigation, and wrong all the six Counties in their Lands and Meadows, and drown many Townes and Churches, and in conclusion wrong his Majesty and all other great Lords in spending their money in vain, altogether failing of drayning the Fens, ought to be tryed before he be trusted.

But all these particulars may be justly charged upon Sir *Cornelius Vermuden* by this his designe.

Therefore he ought to be tryed before he be trusted too far.

I shall conclude with one argument more in full answer to this objection, from the manner of his proceedings, Thus,

That he that to bring his own ends to passe, hath not cared though he wrong the poore in setting them on work, and not paying them their wages, nor poore travellours in cutting up London Roade, and turning their loaden horses upon his new bank, where they slip in, and are pittifully foyled. Nor other of his Majesties Subjects, depriving them wholly of their ancient high-way, that of necessity they must goe at least 4. miles about: Nor others in cutting and drowning their Lands, without giving them any satisfaction: Nor his Majesty, but mispending his mony, contrary to the trust reposed in his promises, only to be revenged on Mr. *Burrell*, not caring though in so doing he drown whole Towns and Churches, may also attempt to deceive and wrong this Parliament.

But Sir *Cornelius Vermuden* may be justly charged with the sixe former of these particulars.

Therefore he may be so bold as to attempt the later.

And now since Sir *Cornelius* his great and maine

designe (which is turning two or three Rivers into one, and putting all those waters in times of greatest floods betweene bankes set at a great distance made through moorish grounds) is not onely dangerous, as he himselfe confesserh, but is, or will be proved to be such a way as will never drayne the Fennes though all the aforesaid townes and countries may receive much prejudice by his workes notwithstanding.

I shall here in short lay downe some generall rules for drayning of this great levell, in such manner, that although all cannot, yet the greatest part of the Fennes may be made winter grounds, and wrong none, and secure all, and the charge, not so great but that they will abundantly requite it.

Let Rivers be made large and deepe, and there will be matter enough arising thereout with the indikes to make high bankes, neere on each side the Rivers, these bankes being made high, and but a small distance betweene, will be a shelter to the water that shall run betwixt them as a hedge, or wall, will shelter cattell that lie neere unto them; so that the windes will have no power to raise violent waves against these bankes to teare them as the others set at a great distance, so that here is one maine mischief prevented already.

A second mischief will hereby be prevented with a benefit in the roome, for wheras such banks though placed at a great distance) could be made to hold, will restraine the waters of their former liberty, and so cause them to rise higher in the Medowes above, then formerly, and so doe much hurt, such deepe and large Rivers will prevent, for as soone as the floud begins to rise in the Rivers above the Fens, it finds such fall and current passage to the sea, that it is taken

ken downe as it begins to rise, so as that which would have beene but a little flood before, will be no flood now, and so in Summer time will be much advantageous to their Medowes, causing their grasse to be lesse flooded then before.

A third benefit by deepe & large Rivers with banks placed neare the sides is this, when a great flood comes it finds such fall & current passage, that it will be gone halfe into the Sea, in such time, as without such Rivers it will be climbing up to get above the superficieses of the Fens betweene those bankes so farre distant, for untill it be got a loft, it can goe but slowly (as is confessed by Sir *Cornelius*) wanting the fall it had before, and the hassocks, reedes sedge, and long grasse will hinder the passage. and as soone as it is aloft, the windes will have power to raise violent waves which will whinder the bankes to peeces, for it must lie high against those bankes, untill the two Rivers will grind out a passage for it foure miles betweene *Wishich-Horshoe*, and the Sea, as he saith it must, p. 25. l. 25. but there is a straighter passage before it come out of the Fens besides that.

Now is it not much better that halfe a great flood be sent speedily into the Sea than to lie by the way tearing and breaking the banks?

A fourth benefit is a small flood or rise of water being pent up betwixt narrow bankes, will goe with force down a deepe River, and so scowre and keepe open the Outfalls, when the other loseth a small flood by the way.

Lastly, this way, with some other necessary works as also some sluices & flakers, or inlets (which Sir *Cornelius* saith are remedies worse then the diseale) to convey the overplus of the great floods into the old Rivers

Rivers, Meares, and many division dikes, which will all be low, and empty, before such great floods come, and will receive such overplus, and yet the greatest part of the Fens will be dry in the time of the greatest floods; And this way there is not a river nor drain, nor any other work of the late Earle of *Bedfords* but will when it is made as it should, be of good use, and Navigation not so much as hindered in any parts belonging to these Fens, & no man hurt nor endangered in his estate, and the charge to make these workes, lesse then one hundred thousand pounds, provided that there be foure summers for the doing of them, and that the work at no convenient time of the yeare stay or be hindered for want of money. And the charge for maintenance of these workes will be far lesse then Sir *Cornelius* would seeme to make it, for when these bankes are setled too low, as they will in few yeares, the indikes will be growne up, and will need deepening, and that earth will heighten them againe.

The bredth and depth of every River, the height and bredth of every Banke, the bignesse of every Sluce and Tunnell, and where they should be placed, with an estimate of the charge of every particular work, as also the reasons why any Sluce to be placed upon the River *Ouse*, or *Neene*, more then now are, will rather hinder then help Navigation, and will never in respect of drayning, requite for one halfe of the colt, Is set forth in the second part.

FINIS.

